



New Apostolic Church USA

Spiral up – Written by Apostle Robert Ferguson
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Living through this difficult time of the coronavirus pandemic, we hear and experience a lot of negative aspects, including: hoarding that leads to empty grocery shelves; schools closed with children stuck at home; restrictions on travel and personal freedom including attending divine services; and the adverse effects of sustained isolation.

Maybe we feel like life is in a downward spiral. Maybe we fear the worst...

The evil one delights when we allow fear to grip us. He loves to see us stressed, worrying about catching the coronavirus, troubled by the financial impact of this pandemic, and being anxious about predicting when all of this will end. Sometimes, we may feel like the devil is winning...

But now is the time to remember the words of Apostle Paul:

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

For such a time as this, Paul also provides a powerful reminder on how to stand against the devil and this fear-based downward spiral:

“...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” (Ephesians 6: 10-11, 14-16)

Let us not cave in to fear, but rather stand firm in our faith.

When we stand firm, having put on the whole armor of God, we can stop the downward spiral, where evil begets evil (Ecclesiastes 6:1-2). Instead, we allow our love for the Lord to shine, and focus our efforts on doing good that begets good. Through love, we can initiate and support an upward movement, with the Lord at the center of everything.

Proactively look for ways to love our neighbor in very practical ways. As Jesus outlines in Matthew 25: 31-40, we can help those with very real needs. How can we do this today?

- Reach out by phone, text, or video to encourage those who are sick, quarantined, or alone.
- Go shopping for groceries and supplies for those that cannot get out.



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- Assist those that have lost their job to find new opportunities.
- Seek a source of help for those who cannot pay their rent or utilities.
- Remind everyone that the Lord is with us and He will never leave us (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Such actions can change the tide and support an upward spiral. When one does it, others will follow and do the same – and more. In such a manner, we demonstrate our love for the Lord, where Jesus said,

“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

We serve the Lord out of love. For out of His love for us, Jesus sacrificed His life so that we might also grow closer to Him and be prepared to enter into the kingdom of God at His return.

NAC USA has a daily video devotional highlighting Jesus’ seven last phrases from the cross. This video devotional is available in the NAC USA mobile app and as a playlist on the church’s YouTube channel, which can be accessed directly from YouTube or from the link on the Passiontide resources page of nac-usa.org.

Starting on Saturday, April 4th, a video per day will also be featured on the church’s Facebook page and will conclude with the last video on Good Friday. Consider watching the videos, which are about one minute each, for the seven days leading up to Good Friday. You can also share or discuss them with a friend.